

321 CMR: DIVISION OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE.

321 CMR 3.02: HUNTING.

3.02: HUNTING, PARTICULAR GAME.

(3) Hunting of Bobcat, Fox, and Coyote in Massachusetts. In accordance with the authority vested in me by M.G.L. c. 131, § 5, as amended by St. 1967, c. 802, the annual open seasons for the hunting of fox, coyote, and bobcat are hereby adopted, subject to the following:

(a) Definitions. For the purposes of 321 CMR 3.02(3), the following words or phrases shall have the following meanings:

Bobcat means the bobcat or wildcat (*Felis [Lynx] rufus*) but not the lynx or Canada lynx (*Felis [Lynx] canadensis*).

Division means the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, 251 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02114.

Fox means the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and the gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*).

Green pelt means a pelt which has not been dried, cured, or tanned.

Raw pelt or raw fur means a green pelt which has been dried, fleshed, or cured.

State means the several states, territories, and possessions of the United States of America, and any foreign nation and any political subdivision, possession, or occupied area thereof.

Zone or Zones means the Massachusetts wildlife management zones as described in 321 CMR 3.02(4)(o).

(b) Open Seasons and Zones.

1. The dates of the open seasons shall be as follows: for bobcat, beginning December 20 and ending the following March 8, all dates inclusive; and for foxes and coyotes, beginning ~~November 1 and ending the following last day of February,~~ **on the first Saturday after Columbus Day and ending the following March 8**, all dates inclusive. ~~except that a person shall not hunt or take a fox or coyote except by means of a trap during the shotgun deer season as provided for in 321 CMR 3.02(4)(b)3.a.~~

2. Fox and coyote may be hunted throughout Massachusetts.

3. Bobcat may be hunted only in Zones 01 through 08.

(c) Hunting Hours. The hunting hours during each calendar day of the open season shall begin at ½ hour before sunrise and,

1. for bobcat shall end at ½ hour after sunset, except on wildlife management areas as provided for in 321 CMR 3.01(1)(n), and

2. for fox and coyote shall end at midnight, except on wildlife management areas as provided for in 321 CMR 3.01(1)(n), **and except during the shotgun deer season when the hunting hours shall end at ½ hour after sunset.**

(d) Restrictions.

1. In addition to the provisions of 321 CMR 3.02(3)(b) and (c), ~~the pelts of all fox, coyote, and bobcat taken~~ **or salvaged** shall ~~not be sold, exchanged, bartered, retained by the hunter, or otherwise disposed of until the pelts have first been~~ **be** brought to a designated representative of the Division and sealed with an official seal by said representative. Seals shall be non-transferable and shall be valid only for the pelt or animal to which applied by said representative. Seals shall remain attached to the pelt **or animal** until the pelt is dressed or tanned, or prepared for mounting by a taxidermist, **or the animal is otherwise disposed of.** ~~The pelts of~~ **F**ox and coyote shall be sealed no later than four working days after the closing day of the open season for that species. ~~The pelts of~~ **B**obcat shall be sealed no later than four working days after the date the bobcat was taken. Working days are

defined as the days Monday through Friday inclusive, except legal state holidays as defined in M.G.L. c. 4, § 7(18).

2. No raw bobcat, fox, or coyote pelt, regardless of state of origin, shall be sold, exchanged, bartered, or offered for sale within the Commonwealth unless said pelt bears an official tag, seal, or stamp issued or applied by the state within which said bobcat, fox, or coyote was taken, or by another governmental jurisdiction empowered to tag, seal, or stamp such pelts. Such tag, seal, or stamp shall be identifiable as to the issuing jurisdiction. No person shall alter, tamper with, or reapply any such tag, seal, or stamp, nor possess any altered, tampered, or reapplied tag, seal, or stamp (except if such tag, seal, or stamp is destroyed to such a degree that it cannot be reapplied), or any pelt bearing the same.

3. Bobcat shall not be hunted or pursued with the aid of a dog.

4. During the shotgun deer season, coyote and fox may be hunted throughout Massachusetts only by means of a shotgun not larger than ten gauge, including shotguns with a rifled bore, by means of a muzzle-loading firearm, fired from the shoulder, .44 to .775 caliber, or by means of a bow and arrow.

5. During the shotgun deer season, a person hunting coyote or fox shall not use any electronic call or other noise-making device. Nothing in 321 CMR 3.02(3)(d)5. shall be construed to prohibit the use of deer antlers or replicas thereof or grunt tubes by persons lawfully hunting deer, or the use of hand or mouth operated waterfowl callers by persons lawfully hunting waterfowl.

(e) Harvest Quota. Notwithstanding the provisions of 321 CMR 3.02(3)(b) and 3.02(5)(b)6., after 50 bobcats have been taken either through hunting or trapping or a combination thereof, the Director shall close the hunting or trapping season, or both, as the case may be, for the remainder of the annual open season.

(f) Limitations. Nothing in 321 CMR 3.02(3) shall be deemed to limit any other provision of M.G.L. c. 131 or any rule or regulation issued under authority thereof.

(g) Savings Clause. If any part, section, subsection, division, or subdivision of 321 CMR 3.02(3) or the application thereof is held invalid, unconstitutional, or inoperative as to any particular person, persons, or conditions, the remainder thereof or the application of any such part, section, subsection, division, or subdivision shall not be affected thereby.

Regulatory Authority: M.G.L. c. 131, § 5.

Last Revised: